

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2805

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BERMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: LAND HESSEN CDU CONVENTION REELECTS ALFRED DREGGER

SUMMARY: ALFRED DREGGER WAS OVERWHELMINGLY REELECTED TO THE HESSEN CDU LEADERSHIP BY 484 OF 484 DELEGATES TO THE PARTY CONVENTION ON JANUARY 31. EXCEPT FOR LEISLER-KIEP WHOSE NOMINATION MET WITH SOME OPPOSITION ALL OTHER NOMINEES TO THE CDU EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE ELECTED WITH MAJORITIES CLOSE TO THAT OF DREGGER. CAMPAIGN THEMES INDICATED IN SPEECHES EMPHASIZED IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE SPD AND A STROMG ASSERTIVE ROLE FOR THE FRG WHILE ALL BUT IGNORING ECONOMIC ISSUES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT DREGGER'S POSITION ON THE LOCAL AND NATIONALSCENE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE RESOUNDING ENDORSEMENT HE WAS GIVEN BY THE CDU DELGATES AND HIS GROWING REPUTATION AS A WINNER. END SUMMARY.

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1. TO THE SURPRISE OF VIRTUALLY NOBODY WHO CLOSELY FOLLOWS HESSEN POLITICS THE CDU PARTY CONVENTION HELD IN HANAU NEAR FRANKFURT ON JANUARY 31 REELECTED DR. ALFRED DREGGER TO BE HESSEN CDU CHAIRMAN FOR ANOTHER TWO-YEAR TERM. 474 OF THE 484 VOTING DELEGATES REPRESENTING A PARTY MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 55,000 VOTED FOR DR. DREGGER. WITH ONLY EIGHT VOTES AGAINST HIM PLUS ONE ABSTENTION AND ONE INVALID BALLOT THE RESULT WAS A UNQUALIFIED TRIUMPH FOR THE ENERGETIC CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER IN HESSEN.

2. IN A COMPARABLE DISPLAY OF PARTY UNITY AND CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP THE 848 DELEGATES ALSO VOTED IN WITH VIRTUALLY NO OPPOSITION ALOMOT THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP SLATE PROPOSED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE HESSEN CDU REXCUTIVE BOARD WITH SUPPORTING VOTES RANGING FROM A MINIMUM OF 426 FOR DR. CHRISTIAN SCHWARZ-SCHILLING TO 464 FOR HANS WAGNER, PRESIDENT OF THE HESSEN LANDTAG. ONLY WALTHER LEISLER-KEP, PARTY TREASURER, LABELED BY THE FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE THE ENFANT TERRIBLE OF THE HESSEN CDU HAD TO PUT UP WITH 79 OPPOSING OVTES OF THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES NO DOUBT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT OF THE POLISH AGREEMENTS.

3. IN A WIDE RANGING AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECIVED SPEECH DREGGER DIRECTED HIS ATTACK AGAINST THE CDU'S POLITICAL ENEMIES PRIMARILY AT THE SPD BUT ALSO DEALT WITH ORGANIZATIONS TASKS OF THE HESSEN CDU. AS A RESULT OF WHAT DREGGER PRIVATELY AND OFF THE RECORD DESCRIBED AS A DELIBERATE DIVISION OF LABOR IT WAS LEFT TO SCHWARZ-SCHILLING TO MAKE THE MAIN ATTACK AGAINST THE FDE -- A TASK WHICH HE MAY NOT HAVE FOUND ENTIRELY TO HIS LIKING BUT ONE WHICH IN VIEW OF DR. DREGGER'S UNQUESTIONABLY STRONG POSITION IN THE HESSEN CDU HE COULD HARDLY RESIST WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO TAKE IT ON. DREGGER HIMSELF DESCRIBED THE HESSEN CDU AS BEING IN THE VANGUARD OF THE NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY BECAUSE THE HESSEN CDU HAD STUCK FIRMLY WITH THE PARTY'S BASIC AND LASTING PRINCIPLES AND HAD RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO ADAPT ITSELF TO PASSING POLITICAL TRENDS AND FASHIONS. HIS ATTACK AGAINST THE SPE WAS HEAVILY IDEOLOGICAL WITH GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO CHANGE THE DISASTROUS EDUCATION POLICIES PROMULGATED BY THE SPD/FDO COALITION IN WIESBADEN AND BY EXTENSION ELSEWHERE IN THE FRG, A

THEME WHICH WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECIVED BY THE PARTY DELEGATES PRESENT AT HANAU. AFTER MENTIONING BRIEFLY THE VOTERS' DESIRES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECURITY DREGGER SAID THE ROAD TO SUCCESS FOR THE CDU WHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT A PEOPLE MUST HAVE A SPIRITUAL GOAL, SINCE "WITHOUT A HISTORICAL MISSION IT (I.E. THE GERMAN PEOPLE ED.) WILL DISSOLVE". "THE NEED TO CONTENT WITH AN INGLORIOUS RECENT PAST--MEANING 1933 TO 1945/ HAS TEMPORARILY OBSCURED THIS BASIC FACT OF POLITICS", DREGGER SAID, "BUT," HE WENT ON TO SAY, "WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW GENERATION THIS IS ALL OVER".

SUMMARIZING THE CDU'S AIMS DR. DREGGER CALLED FOR

- A) THE SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL DEFEAT OF MARXISM AND THE NEED TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF A FREE AND SOCIAL STATE OF LAWS AGAINST THREATS FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT;
- B) RESTORATION OF THE ECONOMIC BASIS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE COUTNRY;
- C) ASSISTANCE TO EVERY ONE IN GERMANY AND ABROAD WHO REQUIRES OUT ASSISTANCE AND WHOM WE ARE ABLE TO ASSIST;
- D) UNIFICATION OF EUROPE NOT ONLY ECONOMICALLLY BUT ALSO POLITICALLY AS URGED IN TINDEMANS' RECENT REPORT;
- E) EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES;
- F) A POLICY OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL WORLD POWERS "INCLUDING CHINA AND JAPAN" AND
- F) ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND WITHOUT GIVING AWAY ANYTHING TRADE AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET UNION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD PEACE.

4. DEPUTY CHARMAN WALTER WALLMANN (MARBURG) SPEQKING PRIMARILY ABOUT THE PPLISH AGREEMENTS SAHRPLY CRITICIZED WEHNER'S WARSAW STATEMENT AND RESTATED THE KNOWN CDU/CSU OBJECTION TO THE AGREEMENTS INCLUDING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. CLAIMING THAT ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF THE GERMANY POPULATION ARE OPPOSED TO THE AGREEMENTS WALLMANN CALLED ON WEHNER AND MISCHNICK TO RELEASE THE SPD AND FDP BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE AND LET THEM VOTE THIER CONSCIENCE ON THE ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: A) THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ALFRED DREGGER HAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION WITHIN

HESSEN AND ON THE NATIONAL SCENE. IN JANUARY 1974  
363 OF 389 VOTING DELEGATES SUPPORTED HIS  
LEADERSHIP OF THE HESSEN PARTY. TWO YEARS LATER  
THE NUMBER OF VOTING DELEGATES HAD INCREASED TO  
484 OF WHICH ALL BUT TEN SUPPORTED HIM. ALTHOUGH THE  
OVERHELMING MAJORITY OF DELEGATES TO PARTY  
CONVENTIONS BETWEEN 1968 AND 1972 ALSO SUPPORTED  
DREGGER THEY NUMBERED ONLY ABOUT HALF THAT WHICH  
CAME TO HANAU LAST SAUTRDAY. IN PART HIS SUCCESS  
STEMS FROM A GROWING FEELING IN THE PARTY RANK AND  
FILE (AND MUCH OF THE PRESS) THAT DREGGER STANDS  
FOR A DEFINITE VIEW POINT AND THE HE MEANS WHAT  
HE SAYS, MOREOVER, WHAT HE SAYS DISTINCTLY  
APPEALS TO MOST OF THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP. IN  
ADDITON DREGGER IS AN EXCELLENT ORGANIZER WHO  
PAYS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND POLITICS AT THE  
GRASSROOTS LEVEL. HE HAS BEEN ABLY ASSISTED IN THIS  
TASK BY THE PARTY'S GENERAL MANAGER IN HESSEN,  
MANFRED KANTHER, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE CDU'S  
MEMBERSHIP HAS DOUBLED IN LITTLE OVER THREE YEARS  
AND RESULTED IN THE STRONG SHOWING THE PARTY MADE  
IN THE 1974 LANDTAG ELECTIONS. FINALLY,  
NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS. AMONG THE PARTY  
FAITHFUL, INCREASINGLY HUNGRY FOR THE REWARDS OF  
POLITICAL POWER, DREGGER'S PAST SUCCESSES AND THE  
STRONG NOTE OF CONFIDENCE WITH HE SOUNDS GIVE  
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PROMISE OF EVEN BETTER HTINGS TO COME.  
B) EXCEPT FOR A GENERAL REMINDER OF A CITIZEN'S  
RIGHT FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY, ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE  
NOT MENTIONED AT THE HANAU CONVENTION. WE HAVE  
LEARNED OFF THE RECORD THAT THIS IS NO ACCIDENTAL  
COMMISSION BUT REFLECTS A DELIBERATE DECISION AT  
LEAST BY DRAGGER AND THE HESSEN CDU LEADERSHIP TO  
DOWNPLAY ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION  
CAMPAIGN. WE BELIEVE DREGGER MAY BE URGING THE  
SAME COURSE OF CAUTION WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC  
ISSUES ON THE CDU/CSU NATIONAL LEADRSHIP.  
C) DREGGER'S TREATMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS  
ECHOED BY WALLMANN REFLECTS A CONSIDERED  
EFFORT TO STRIKE A FIRM BUT MORE SOPHISTICATED  
NOTE THAN IN THE PAST. WE WILL TRADE AND TREAT  
(HANDELN UND VERHANDELN) WITH THE SOVIETS AND  
EASTERNEUROPEAN COMMUNISTS BUT WE WILL NOT  
SERVE AS A MEANS BY WHICH THE COMMUNISTS CAN  
ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS WAS THE THEME. LEHAMNN

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